

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Christoph GROHMANN et al)

Appln. No. : 09/402,482)

Filed : September 9, 1997)

For : DEVICE FOR INSPECTING TEST)
OBJECTS AND USE THEREOF)

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

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APR 0 5 2000

Group 2700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

- (1) S.F. Buchele et al., Materials Evaluation, 48, May 1990. This document is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 3, line 10;
- (2) R.J. Kruse et al., Review of Progress in Quantitative Nondestructive Evaluation, Vol 10B, 1991. This document is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 3, line 11;
- (3) D.G. Grant, IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering, 19, Jan. 1972. This document is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 3, line 12;
- (4) U.E. Ruttimann et al., Medical Physics, 16(3), May/June 1989. This document

is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 3, line 13;

- (5) German Patent Application No. 42 35 183. This document is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 3, line 21.

Applicants submit herewith copies of the documents cited in the International Search Report dated February 6, 1998 and a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report dated May 3, 1999, conducted in connection with International Application No. PCT/DE97/02024, of the which the instant Application is a U.S. National Stage. In particular, the International Examiner cited:

- (6) European Patent Application No. 0 683 389 published November 22, 1995 as an "X" category document (i.e., a document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone). In particular, the International Examiner noted page 6, lines 46 - 48; page 9, lines 3 - 14; claims 8 - 10; and figures 12 and 13 as relevant to claims 1 - 11 of the International application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,594,768 issued to FUJII et al. on January 14, 1997, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited document. Further, Applicants note that this document is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 3a, line 26;

- (7) U.S. Patent No. 5,097,492 issued to BAKER et al. on March 17, 1992 as an "A" category document (i.e., document defining the general state of the art which is not

considered to be of particular relevance). In particular, the International Examiner noted the abstract and figure 1 as relevant to claim 1 of the International application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,926,452 issued to BAKER et al. on May 15, 1990; 5,621,811 issued to RODER et al. on April 15, 1997; 5,561,696 issued to ADAMS et al. on October 1, 1996; 5,291,535 issued to BAKER et al. on March 1, 1994; and 5,081,656 issued to BAKER et al. on January 14, 1992, which are identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family members of the above-cited document. Further, Applicants note that this document is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 4, line 5;

(8) European Patent Application No. 0 236 001 published September 9, 1997 as an "A" category document. In particular, the International Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claim 1 of the International application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,809,308 issued to BAKER et al. on February 28, 1989; and RE 35,423 reissued to ADAMS et al. on January 14, 1992, which are identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited document. Further, Applicants note that this document is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 1, line 9;

(9) U.S. Patent No. 5,259,012 issued to BAKER et al. on November 2, 1993 as an "A" category document. In particular, the International Examiner noted the abstract and Figure 3A as relevant to claim 1 of the International application. Further,

Applicants note that this document is discussed in the instant application beginning on page 4, line 11;

(10) U.S. Patent No. 5,463,667 issued to ICHINOSE et al. on October 31, 1995 as an "A" category document. In particular, the International Examiner noted the abstract and Figure 7 as relevant to claim 1 of the International application; and

(11) U.S. Patent No. 5,621,811 issued to RODER et al. on April 15, 1997 as an "A" category document. In particular, the International Examiner noted the abstract as relevant to claim 12 of the International application. Applicants note that this document is among the family members identified by the Annex to the Search Report of document (7) above.

At this time the undersigned does not have copies of the documents (1) - (5), but copies of these documents will be submitted to the Examiner as soon as they become available to the undersigned. However, copies of the above-listed documents (6) - (11) (including the International Search Report and the International Preliminary Examination Report) are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Applicant notes that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more

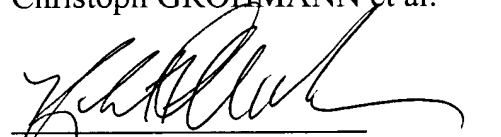
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than three months from the filing date, Applicant has not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if the first action on the merit has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Christoph GROHMANN et al.



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